

Nevada Indian Commission
Education Advisory Committee for Native American & Alaska Natives
April 15, 2013

Main site: Western Nevada College, 2201 West College Parkway, Carson City, NV

Videoconference sites: Fallon, NV; Las Vegas, NV; Elko, NV; Reno, NV

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission, Chris Ann Gibbons, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Indian Commission; Lori Pasqua, Pre-College Advisor, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California and Vice-Chairperson, Indian Education Advisory Committee; Barbara Garcia, Instructional Assistant, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Daryl Crawford, Executive Director, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada; Kari Emm, Transfer Recruitment Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno; Sandra Mitrovich, Outreach and Retention Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno; Lindsey Niedzielski, State Program Manager, Connect Nevada; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional – Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; Gayleen Roy, Education Director, Yerington Paiute Tribe; San San Tin, Education Director, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; Cheryl Nelson, Equity and Diversity Program, Clark County School District; Laura Watters, Family Advocate, Moapa Band of Paiutes; Dawn Bruce, Social Services, Moapa Band of Paiutes; Adriana Lopez, Student Outreach, Truckee Meadows Community College

- I. Invocation
 - a. The invocation was given by Daryl Crawford.
- II. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Lori Pasqua called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- III. Initial Public Comment
 - a. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.
- IV. For Possible Action: Approval of January 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes
 - a. The January 14, 2013 meeting minutes were tabled to the next meeting.
- V. For Possible Action: Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms to the Education Advisory Committee for Native American and Alaska Natives
 - a. Sherry Rupert reported an appointment of representative form was received from Starla Serawop from Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada. Barbara Garcia motioned to approve the form, seconded by Kari Emm. Motion carried.
 - b. Sherry noted the Nevada Indian Commission will send out e-mails to individuals who appointments have expired.
- VI. Informational Presentation on *Every Community Online Program* – Lindsey Niedzielski, State Program Manager, Connect Nevada

- a. Sherry introduced Lindsey Niedzielski to the Committee. Lindsey said www.connect.nv.org is a self paced digital portal that can be done by individuals or a group and Connect Nevada works in collaboration with the Nevada Broadband Task Force.
- b. Libraries in the State have used the portal to offer patrons digital learning opportunities.
- c. Once you register and log-in there are basic courses under “Every Community On-line”: Courses include how to use a computer, how to use e-mail to communicate, and general Internet knowledge. Upon completion of the training you become eligible to receive a low-cost refurbished computer, assistance in locating broadband service, a \$10 mobile card and information on other tools. The training is also available in Spanish.
- d. Additionally, trainings are available in internet safety, typing and life skills which includes money management.
- e. Sherry asked if the computers are shipped after the training is completed. Lindsey replied upon completion of the training a form is filled out and the computer(s) are shipped to the recipient(s).
- f. Kari Emm asked if a tribe or a non-profit would be eligible to order multiple computers. Lindsey replied yes, her office would need to be contacted to set up the order. Lindsey also added those enrolled in the training need to be at least 18 years of age and there is no income requirement.
- g. Lori Pasqua said she is involved in the Washoe TANF Program and asked if there is support if computers do not work correctly. Lindsey replied support is included for two years after receipt of a computer and the support phone number is provided with the computer.
- h. Sherry stated the Commission will forward the Connect Nevada link to the Indian education e-mail list along with a brief explanation of the program.

VII. Report on Nevada Tribes Day at Legislature – February 11, 2013

- a. Sherry reported the Nevada Tribes Day at the Legislature was a great success and the idea behind the day was to have Tribal Leaders and Legislators alike meet each other as well as educate the Legislative Leadership on Nevada’s Tribes and issues. Information was available on 3 key focus areas: Economic Development/Tourism, Education and Healthcare.
- b. A one page summary on Indian education in Nevada was compiled and members from the Committee had a table which included Indian education resources. Committee members in attendance included Gayleen Roy, Kari Emm, Fredina Drye-Romero, Sandra Mitrovich and Lynn Manning.
- c. Fredina Drye-Romero agreed it was a great success and members from her curriculum committee were in attendance to talk about the Great Basin curriculum that hopefully will be put into legislation at the next legislative session.
- d. Sherry said Senate Bill (SB) 23 to establish the Nevada Tribes Day in statute was introduced in the Senate Committee on Government Affairs. Tribal leaders, tribal members, students, the community and members from this Committee were in attendance to testify in support of the bill and an overflow room had to be opened to accommodate the number of attendees. The bill passed out of the Committee and will now go to the Assembly for approval.

- e. Fredina added it was great to see tribal students attend and share what the day meant to them and how important it is for them to have a place at the legislature.
- VIII. For Possible Action: Discussion on Development of White Paper to Support Legislation in the Next Session – Indian Education for All
- a. Sherry said this agenda item is a follow-up to the Nevada Tribes Day at the Legislature. It was suggested that a white or position paper be put together on Indian education and shared with legislators and the interim legislative committees before the next session. The paper would include the history of Indian education and the Great Basin curriculum.
 - b. Lori asked for volunteers to be on a sub-committee for a White Paper. Gayleen Roy, Kari Emm, Fredina Drye-Romero, Saundra Mitrovich, Sherry Rupert and Lynn Manning volunteered to be on the subcommittee.
- IX. Committee Member Comments and Announcements
- a. Saundra Mitrovich from the University of Nevada Reno reported each March-April the UNR Center for Student Cultural Diversity hosts events that reflect the cultural diversity of students and faculty at the University. At the end of the month the Native American Student Organization (NASO) is putting together fashion show to address stereotypes and is hosting a hand game tournament. Also, Saundra said she is working on the possibility of establishing a native sorority at the University. Lastly, the Native American Graduation Celebration will be held May 5th from 3-5pm at the Joe Crowley Student Union.
 - b. Kari Emm from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) said the Transfer Admissions Program (TAP) is designed to give students an opportunity to continue their education at the University of Nevada, Reno upon completion of their Associates degree. Colleges included in the program include Great Basin College, Truckee Meadows Community College and Western Nevada College. Also, the deadline has been extended to apply for American Indian scholarships at the University and Kari encouraged those in attendance to join the UNR Native American Alumni Chapter. Chapter memberships go toward the UNR scholarships for native students.
 - c. Sherry announced the Stewart Father's Day Powwow will be held June 14-16th at Stewart. Also, an alumni reception will be held Thursday, June 13th at the Plaza Hotel in Carson City. Sherry also announced an archaeological field school will be held at Stewart July 15-August 15th. The project is a collaborative effort between the UNR Department of Anthropology, the Washoe Tribal Historic Preservation Office and the Nevada Indian Commission. Lastly, the Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference will be held April 23-25th in Fallon where presenters will talk about the importance of tribal tourism in Nevada.
 - d. Lori Pasqua announced the Cowboy Poetry Festival in Genoa will be held May 3-5th and native artisans will be in attendance and three will be presentations on the Great Basin Tribes.
 - e. Gayleen Roy announced April 20th the Yerington Paiute Tribe will host a fun run/walk and on April 27th the Wovoka Committee will host a circle dance. Vendors are welcome to contact the Tribe for space at both events.

- f. San San Tin announced the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Youth Conference will be held April 23rd.
 - g. Adrianna Lopez said the Truckee Meadows Community College life skills program is aimed at students interested in vocational or technical careers. The Life Skills Program has a cap at 100 students and the Summer Bridge Program has a cap at 200 students. Upon completion students receive an \$800 stipend and receive assistance after the programs have completed.
- X. Indian Education Updates
- a. Fredina Drye-Romero from the Nevada Department of Education announced the Interim Superintendent for Department is Rorie Fitzpatrick. Also, the annual Indian Education Summit was held March 11-12 at the University of Nevada, Reno and was well received. The History and Contemporary Lifestyles of the Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute, Washoe and Western Shoshone Curriculum Guide was showcased at the Summit and the keynote speakers were Jacque Nunez and William Mendoza. Fredina said next year the Summit will be held March 17-18th 2014 at the University. Also, the annual National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention will be held October 30th - November 2nd in Rapid City, South Dakota. Lastly, the 2nd Annual Curriculum Writing Retreat will be held June 19-21, 2013, at the University of Nevada, Reno.
 - b. Gayleen Roy from the Yerington Paiute Tribe reported she attended the "Building Women Career Fair" at Truckee Meadows Community College. The Fair is aimed at recruiting woman for vocational careers and is a great resource for women interested in non-traditional careers.
 - c. San San Tin from Reno-Sparks Indian Colony reported Head Start will be ending May 24th and applications are currently being accepted for fall. Also, she is working with the Washoe County School District on the coordination of after school programs for next year, the tribe is looking for 2 language teachers (Washoe, Shoshone), they are gearing up for the summer youth employment program and are looking for organizations to mentor youth over the summer break.
 - d. Dawn Bruce from the Moapa Band of Paiutes reported each year the Tribe hosts an Earth Day celebration during spring break with activities aimed at including the tribal community. Dawn asked the Committee if there are any other programs available besides Job Corps which is being cut. Sandra replied there is the Tribal AmeriCorps Program for ages 18-24.
 - e. Cheryl Nelson from the Clark County School District reported 2 college tours were held over spring break. The out of state tour was to Washington and Idaho and students visited 6 different schools.
 - f. Barbara Garcia from the Washoe Tribe reported students went on a tour of UC Davis and the Tribe's Awards Night will be held May 7th in Gardnerville. Lori Pasqua added she is working on tribal scholarships as well as going to Douglas High School once a week to mentor native students. Also, Washoe Tribal Chairwoman Wanda Batchelor has resigned and the Interim Vice-Chairman is Darrel Kizer.
 - g. Sandra Mitrovich from the University of Nevada, Reno announced the Start Thinking About College (STAC) Program will be held in the fall for Washoe County students.

Also, Saundra she is involved in the adopt a school program and goes to school districts to provide information on higher education.

- h. Daryl Crawford from Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada reported he received an e-mail from Ryan Wilson who is seeking sponsors for a National Indian Education Advocacy Summit June 11-13th in Washington D.C. The Summit will be held to protest cuts in Indian Education. Also, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Mid-year Conference will be held in Reno June 24-26th at the Atlantis Casino. The local planning committee is looking for Conference volunteers, funding and tribal participation during the planning process.
- XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
 - a. UNR Co-Admissions Program
- XII. For Possible Action: Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting
 - a. The next meeting was scheduled for May 13th from 9:30-11:30am.
- XIII. Final Public Comments
 - a. There were no final public comments made at the meeting.
- XIV. Adjournment
 - a. **Fredina Drye-Romero motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Barbara Garcia. Motion carried.**